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Retired admiral Daniel J. Murphy will join Gray and Co. as a vice chairman, it was announced yesterday. Murphy, formerly Vice President Bush's chief of staff, will assume duties as the head of Gray's international, defense and trade policy division as of April 1, according to Robert Keith Gray, chairman of the company. Murphy joins William F. Bolger, former postmaster general, who signed on with Gray as a vice chairman in January.

Alejandro Orfila, who joined Gray after serving as secretary general of the Organization of American States and as a vice chairman was responsible for Gray's international business, recently left the company.

Among other things, Murphy has served as deputy undersecretary of defense for policy review and deputy director of the CIA. As commander of the 6th Fleet, he saw action during the 1973 Mideast war and the Cyprus crisis of 1974.

"Washington is the center of decision making in the areas in which I have spent my time," said Murphy, "and I am delighted to continue to be part of that process."